

**CLAYTON COUNTY OBSERVES
MAY 2013 AS
NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH**

- WHEREAS:** Drug Courts are an essential component of our justice system and prove to benefit society by saving vast criminal justice resources, returning individuals to their communities as productive, tax-paying citizens, and provide budgetary solutions; and
- WHEREAS:** Drug Courts are an effective tool in the criminal justice system as they are a service to program participants and represent a major component for minimizing crime. Studies of more than 100 program evaluations and four meta-analytic studies have yielded definitive evidence that Drug Courts significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes and substantially reduce drug abuse and crime; and
- WHEREAS:** Drug Courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against substance abuse and conviction. The Drug Court movement has grown from 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to now over 2,700 operational Drug Courts nationwide. The Clayton County Adult Felony Drug Court has graduated 15 participants since implementation in 2009 and the DUI Court has graduated 149 participants since implementation in 2007; and
- WHEREAS:** Both Courts save valuable tax payer dollars by reducing jail and court operation funds; providing a resource for participants to pursue sobriety, obtain jobs, and remain active in the community while deterring them from new criminal offenses. Drug Courts demonstrate that when one person rises out of drugs and crime, we ALL Rise; and
- WHEREAS:** The Clayton County Board of Commissioners recognizes the month of May, 2013 as ***National Drug Court Month*** and celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope for program graduates and their families; now
- THEREFORE:** I, JEFFREY E. TURNER, Chairman of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of ***May 2013 as National Drug Court Month*** and encourage all citizens to acknowledge the significant contributions Drug Courts have made on reducing substance abuse, crime, and recidivism.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Clayton County, Georgia, to be affixed this 7th day of May in the year two thousand thirteen.

Jeffrey E. Turner, Chairman